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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

2 April 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Allan Evans (OIR)
Colonel W. H. Hennig, USA (G-2)
Captain Allan L. Reed, USN (ONI)
Colonel Charles F. Gillis, USAF (AFOIN-2B2)
Captain Ray Malpass, USN (JIG)

SUBJECT : NIE 11-6-54: Soviet Capabilities and Intentions
in the Field of Guided Missiles

REFERENCES : a. FCDA letter to DCI dated 29 January 1954
(TAB A to IAC-D-81)
b. Assistant Sec Def memorandum for DCI dated
26 March 1954, circulated by the IAC Sec-
retary on 29 March

1. On 30 March, the IAC authorized and directed the preparation of an NIE in response to the requirements laid down by the Department of Defense and the Federal Civil Defense Administration.

2. The Board of National Estimates has tentatively approved the attached statement of the problem and scope for the guidance of the Staff in drafting terms of reference for subsequent consideration by the IAC representatives.

3. The statement of the problem and the scope is sent to you for information. Unless you have major reservations, we do not propose to ask the IAC representatives to meet until we have draft terms of reference for your consideration.

4. Meanwhile, we would appreciate it if you would notify your scientific and technical people that they may be contacted informally to assist in the preparation of material required for a draft terms of reference.

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PAUL A. BOREL
Deputy Assistant Director
National Estimates

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SUBJECT: NIE 11-6-54: SOVIET CAPABILITIES AND INTENTIONS IN
THE FIELD OF GUIDED MISSILES

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

To estimate Soviet capabilities and intentions to develop and produce in operational quantities long-range and short-range guided missiles, including those capable of carrying a nuclear warhead.

SCOPE OF THE ESTIMATE

This paper estimates Soviet capabilities to develop and produce:

- a. Intercontinental guided missiles,
- b. Short-range guided missiles, suitable for launching from surface craft or submarines, and,
- c. Short range air to ground, ground to air, and air to air guided missiles,

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including the possible use of nuclear warheads.

It further estimates the dates by which these missiles could be available to the Soviet armed forces in operational quantities and the probable extent to which the developmental and production capabilities would be exploited.

In short, this estimate is designed to assemble and review all pertinent information on the Soviet guided missiles program and weapons system and, on that basis, to give the best answer that the intelligence community can give to this question:

Is or will the US be gravely threatened by
Soviet activity in the field of guided missiles?